

Message Text

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FOR ATHERTON

FOL RPT TRIPOLI 0230 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN 15 FEB 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0230

AMMAN FOR TRIPOLI CHARGE CARLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJ: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS: MFA SETS FORTH LARG POLICIES ON
MIDDLE EAST AND TERRORISM

1. MFA ACTING DIRECTOR AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, IBRAHIM SAHAD,
SUMMONED ME AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 14 TO REITERATE LARG DESIRE
FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US AND TO SET FORTH LARG
POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND TERRORISM. SAHAD SAID
LIBYAN UN PERMANENT REP KIKHIA HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
SEEK MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S
MIDDLE EAST TRIP BUT MFA NOT YET INFORMED WHETHER KIKHIA
HAD OBTAINED APPOINTMENT.

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2. LIBYAN DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS: SAHAD NOTED THAT
LIBYA HAD TRIED OVER PAST YEAR TO HOLD A DIALOGUE WITH US
TO DISCUSS THOSE ISSUES WHICH WE HAVE SAID ARE BARRIERS
TO OUR ACCEPTANCE OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND IMPROVEMENT
IN BILATERAL REALTIONS. HE SAID THAT WHEN LIBYA HAD
RECALLED ITS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IT WAS DUE TO
RESHUFFLE IN MFA AND TO AMBASSADOR'S POOR HEALTH

RATHER THAN ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD US. LARG HOPES AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS CAN NOW TAKE PLACE. SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD GIVE US FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK AT REVOLVING OUR DIFFERENCES. SAHAD RECALLED THAT WE HAD TOLD LARG THAT MAIN DIFFERENCES WHICH INHIBIT IMPROVED RELATIONS WERE THOSE LIBYAN MIDDLE EAST POLICIES WHICH UNDERMINE US PEACE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS AND "OUR ALLEGATION" THAT LIBYA SUPPORTS AND GIVES REFUGE TO TERRORISTS. LARG HAS DECIDED TO SET FORTH ITS POSITION ON THESE ISSUES AT OUTSET OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION AND PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST. IF KIKHIA HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO, HE HOPED CHARGE CARLE WOULD RELAY LIBYAN VIEWS TO SECRETARY VANCE AT FORTHCOMING COM MEETING.

3. MIDDLE EAST: SAHAD SAID LIBYA SEEKS PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST BUT DOES NOT THINK PEACE WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY PROPOSALS WHICH ARE NOW CURRENT -- I.E., CONVENING MEPC WHICH COULD LEAD TO CREATION PALESTINIAN MINI-STATE. RATHER, LIBYA STANDS FOR A "REAL" PEACE, ONE WHICH WOULD PROMOTE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND JEWS. IN SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST, ONE SHOULD START FROM THE POINT PROBLEM BEGAN (I.E., PRE-1947) AND TACKLE THE ISSUE AS A WHOLE, NOT PIECEMEAL. IT IS ALREADY CLEAR, HE SAID, THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE PARTIES TO THE MEPC WOULD NOT ENABLE THE CONFERENCE TO TREAT THE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE OR IN THE PROPER HISTORICAL CONTEXT. (NOTE: IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT SAHAD DID NOT CONTINUE WITH USUAL

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LIBYAN POSITION THAT PALESTINE SHOULD BE RESTORED AS A LAND OF PALESTINIANS AND ORIENTAL JEWS.) I SAID THT US IS INTERESTED IN HEARING LARG VIEWPOINTS ON MIDDLE EAST AND THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT LIBYA TO AGREE WITH ALL OF OUR POLICIES. BUT WOULD OUR DIFFERING VIEWS LEAD LARG TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE AND UNDERMINE OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST? SAHAD ANSWERED THAT IT WAS HIS "PERSONAL" UNDERSTANDING THAT LARG WOULD NOT, IN FACT, OPPOSE POSITIONS ARAFAT FACTION IN PLO WOULD ADOPT. WHEN I ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT LIBYA DID NOT INTEND TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS, SAHAD OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO DROP REJECTIONISTS, BUT THAT LIBYAN SUPPORT MIGHT, IN FUTURE, BE ONLY PRO FORMA. IN ANY CASE, HE WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISE AND AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT CHARGE CARLE MIGHT PURSUE SUBJECT WITH MIN STATE FON AFFAIRS OR MIN STATE RCC AFFAIRS TAHA SHARIF BIN AMIR IN FURTHER GENERAL EXCHANGE OF

VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST.

4. REGARDING POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF MIDDLE EAST VIEWS, SAHAD OBSERVED THAT LIBYA HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON MIDEAST BY US SINCE INCEPTION ROGERS PLAN IN 1970. HE NOTED THAT "FRONT LINE" COUNTRIES WERE NATURALLY INVOLVED, BUT LAMENTED THAT SAUDIS AND EVEN ALGERIANS CONSULTED WHILE LIBYAN VIEWS APPARENTLY NOT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT FACTOR.

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5. TERRORISM: SAHAD SAID THAT TERRORISM SHOULD NOT BE A SUBJECT OF MISUNDERSTANDING SINCE LIBYA'S POSITION IS CLEAR. HE SAID LIBYA A) IS AGAINST TERRORISM (B) REFUSES TO CONSIDER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS TERRORIST GROUPS C) IS AGAINST HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT AND TAKING "INNOCENT" HOSTAGES. GOING ON, SAHAD SAID LIBYA
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SHOULDN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH LARG SUPPORTS. LIBYA DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPROVE OF ALL MEASURES TAKEN BY THESE GROUPS BUT LARG CANNOT CONTROL ALL THEIR ACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD NOT CONCLUDE THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE PASSED THROUGH LIBYA AND ARE LATER INVOLVED IN HIJACKINGS HAVE LARG APPROVAL ANY MORE THAN SUCH INDIVIDUALS PASSING THROUGH US WOULD HAVE USG APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT LIBYA HAD GIVEN PERMISSION FOR HIJACKERS TO ENTER LIBYA FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND AT REQUEST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, NOT BECAUSE LIBYA AGREED WITH AIMS OF HIJACKERS. WHILE LIBYA OPPOSED TERRORISM IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FIGHT TERRORISM ALONE OR BE ASKED TO DO MORE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MORE MEANS TO DEAL WITH TERRORISTS.

6. COMMENT: SAHAD'S PRESENTATION WAS DELIVERED CAREFULLY WITH FREQUENT REFERENCE TO NOTES. HE SAID FOREGOING OUTLINE LIBYAN POLICIES CAME FROM MIN STATE TRAYKI. THE POSITIONS PRESENTED, WHILE PROBABLY AUTHORITATIVE, DO NOT GO MUCH BEYOND LIBYA'S PUBLIC POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES. A FURTHER EXCHANGE WOULD PROBABLY BE AT A HIGHER LEVEL WHERE WE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE OUR CONCERNS OVER LIBYA'S POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND TERRORISM CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY (AND MORE DIRECTLY TO LARG LEADERSHIP) IN THE HOPE THAT OUR REPRESENTATIONS WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT.
BERGSTROM

UNQUOTE HARTMAN

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